

Crashes by Roadway Classification

Table 9 compares the number of fatal, injury, and total crashes by urban and rural classification. Urban roadways are defined as those within the city limits of cities with 5,000 people or more. Urban roadways tend to carry higher volumes of traffic at lower speeds, while rural roads carry lower traffic volumes at higher speeds.

Table 9 Comparison of Crashes by Roadway Classification: 2003-2007							
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Change 2006-2007	Avg. Change 2003-2006
Fatal Crashes	261	243	243	239	218	-8.8%	-2.8%
Urban	43	47	49	62	47	-24.2%	13.4%
Rural	218	193	194	177	171	-3.4%	-6.6%
Injury Crashes:	9,661	9,810	9,810	9,536	9,234	-3.2%	-0.4%
Urban	5,515	5,738	5,996	5,871	5,764	-1.8%	2.2%
Rural	4,146	4,105	3,814	3,665	3,470	-5.3%	-4.0%
Total Crashes:	26,700	28,238	28,238	24,225	26,452	9.2%	-2.8%
Urban	15,841	17,101	17,504	14,810	16,693	12.7%	-1.7%
Rural	10,859	11,231	10,734	9,415	9,759	3.7%	-4.4%

In 2007, 78% of fatal crashes occurred on rural roads, whereas 37% of all crashes occurred on rural roads. In Idaho in 2007, 88% of the total road mileage was classified as rural roadway. Rural roads tend to have higher speed limits. Crashes at higher impact speeds have a greater probability of resulting in a fatality.³

The high percentage of rural roadways in Idaho primarily contributes to the fact that Idaho's fatality rate is consistently higher than the U.S. fatality rate as evidenced in Table 10.

Table 10 Comparison of Crash Rates per 100 Million AVMT by Roadway Classification: 2003-2007							
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Change 2006-2007	Avg. Change 2003-2006
Fatal Crash Rate	1.81	1.64	1.62	1.57	1.38	-12.1%	-4.7%
Urban Fatal Crash Rate	0.79	0.82	0.82	1.00	0.73	-27.5%	8.8%
Rural Fatal Crash Rate	2.44	2.12	2.16	1.95	1.82	-6.5%	-7.0%
Injury Crash Rate	67.09	66.17	65.54	62.49	58.31	-6.7%	-2.3%
Urban Injury Crash Rate	100.88	100.58	100.26	94.88	89.14	-6.1%	-2.0%
Rural Injury Crash Rate	46.41	45.01	42.43	40.40	37.03	-8.3%	-4.5%
Total Crash Rate	185.41	190.48	188.65	158.75	167.03	5.2%	-4.7%
Urban Total Crash Rate	289.76	299.76	292.70	239.35	258.14	7.9%	-5.7%
Rural Total Crash Rate	121.56	123.15	119.42	103.78	104.15	0.4%	-4.9%

Table 11 shows the number of crashes and crash rates on local and state system roadways (both interstate and non-interstate) for 2003-2007, and the number of crashes and crash rates statewide. Crash rates are lower than the statewide fatality and injury rates shown in Table 2 because multiple fatalities or injuries may result from a single crash.

Table 11
Crash Rates for Local and State System Roadways: 2003-2007

Roadway Information	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Change 2006-2007	Avg. Change 2003-2006
Local Roads:							
VMT (100 millions)	64.0	67.3	67.5	69.2	72.7	5.0%	2.7%
Fatal Crashes	99	75	99	105	88	-16.2%	4.6%
Injury Crashes	5,538	5,465	5,648	5,517	5,824	5.6%	-0.1%
Total Crashes	15,635	16,508	17,857	14,031	16,950	20.8%	-2.6%
Fatal Crash Rate	1.5	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.2	-20.2%	2.4%
Injury Crash Rate	86.5	81.2	83.6	79.7	80.1	0.5%	-2.6%
Total Crash Rate	244.2	245.2	264.4	202.6	233.1	15.0%	-5.0%
U.S. and State Highways:							
VMT (100 millions)	47.7	47.4	48.2	48.5	49.9	2.9%	0.6%
Fatal Crashes	112	112	107	96	88	-8.3%	-4.9%
Injury Crashes	3,297	3,333	3,179	3,162	2,635	-16.7%	-1.4%
Total Crashes	8,751	8,824	8,775	7,797	7,090	-9.1%	-3.6%
Fatal Crash Rate	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.8	-10.9%	-5.4%
Injury Crash Rate	69.2	70.3	66.0	65.2	52.8	-19.0%	-1.9%
Total Crash Rate	183.6	186.0	182.2	160.8	142.2	-11.6%	-4.2%
Interstate Highways:							
VMT (100 millions)	32.3	33.5	34.0	34.9	35.8	2.6%	2.6%
Fatal Crashes	50	53	37	38	42	10.5%	-7.2%
Injury Crashes	826	1,045	983	857	775	-9.6%	2.6%
Total Crashes	2,314	3,000	1,606	2,397	2,412	0.6%	10.8%
Fatal Crash Rate	1.5	1.6	1.1	1.1	1.2	7.7%	-9.6%
Injury Crash Rate	25.6	31.2	28.9	24.6	21.7	-11.9%	-0.1%
Total Crash Rate	71.6	89.6	47.2	68.7	67.4	-1.9%	7.8%
Statewide Totals:							
VMT (100 millions)	144.0	148.2	149.7	152.6	158.4	3.8%	2.0%
Fatal Crashes	261	240	243	239	218	-8.8%	-2.8%
Injury Crashes	9,661	9,843	9,810	9,536	9,234	-3.2%	-0.4%
Total Crashes	26,700	28,332	28,238	24,225	26,452	9.2%	-2.8%
Fatal Crash Rate	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.4	-12.1%	-4.6%
Injury Crash Rate	67.1	66.4	65.5	62.5	58.3	-6.7%	-2.3%
Total Crash Rate	185.4	191.1	188.6	158.8	167.0	5.2%	-4.7%